

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please cancel the originally-filed Abstract of the Disclosure, and add the accompanying new Abstract of the Disclosure which appears on a separate sheet in the Appendix.

Before the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 3, insert the following heading:

--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--.

Before the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 2, insert the following heading:

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.

Before the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 3, insert the following heading:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--.

Before the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 25, insert the following heading:

--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS--.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 23, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--After the machine direction orientation device 12 the plastic film 5 is supplied to a discharge chamber 15. Pressurized gas, preferably air, is fed into the discharge chamber 15 by a pump 16. Instead of air, nitrogen or another gas or gas mixture, for instance, may be used as the gas to be fed. The gas to be fed may also be selected according to the desired electric properties. For example, in respect of the dielectric strength of

the product it would be advisable to use sulphurhexafluoride SF₆ and in respect of chargeability e.g. argon. A sealing chamber 27 is provided at the forward end and at the tail end of the discharge chamber 15. Gas flowing from the sealing chamber 27 can be sucked by the pump 16 and supplied further to the discharge chamber 15 as shown with arrows D. The pump 16 is used for increasing the pressure in the discharge chamber 15 to the desired level. The pressure in the discharge chamber 15 is relatively small compared to the typical foaming methods. The pressure in the discharge chamber 15 is preferably about 10 bars, but it may vary between 3 and 20 bars, for instance. When the pressure in the discharge chamber 15 is increased with the pump 16, the temperature also rises as gas is compressed in the gas chamber 15. This heat can be utilized for heating the plastic film 5. The discharge chamber 15 may also be provided e.g. with heating resistors which are arranged to heat the plastic film 5. Thus the discharge chamber 15 can be used both for feeding gas into the plastic film and for heating the plastic film 5 for orientation in the cross-direction. When gas air is used as the pressurized air gas, additional air can be can be sucked into the system from outside the apparatus through the sealing chambers 27 as shown with arrows E.--